Ag Health News
LABORATORIES

445 Barnard Blvd.
Sunnyside, WA 98944
Phone: (509) 836-2020
Fax: (509) 836-2030
ahlabs@aghealthlabs.com

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Ag Health Feed Lab certified by the National Forage Testing Association

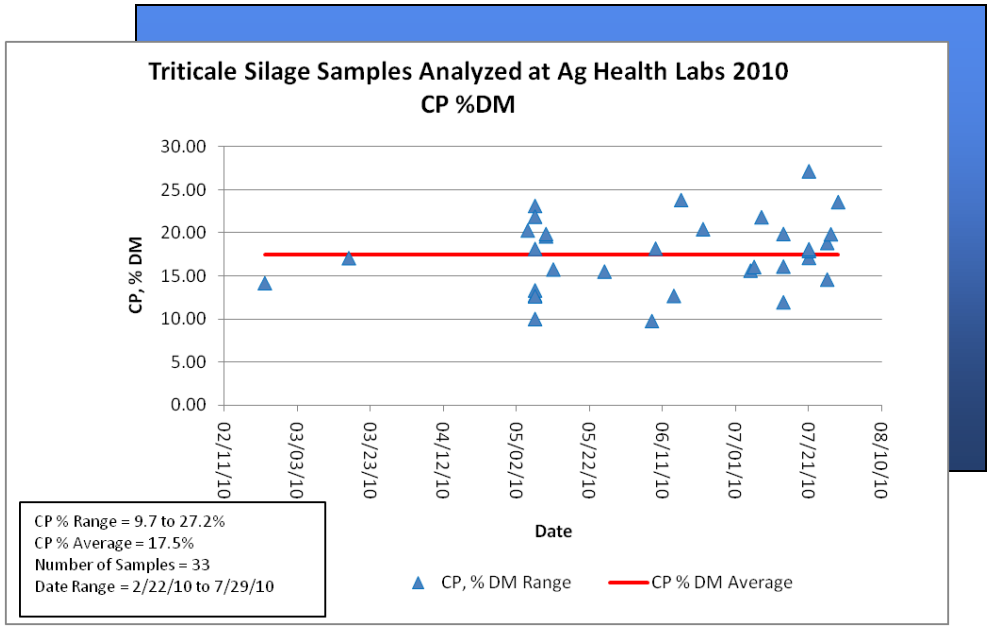
Checkout our Feed Lab Update on page 2….

Foot Health Seminar

Dr. Jeff Defrain with Zinpro Corporation presented useful information regarding foot care and health in dairy cattle at a lunch meeting hosted by Zinpro and Ag Health Labs on May 20, 2010. Preventative care and identification of foot problems during the early stages of foot disease were the primary focus of the talk. Locomotion scoring of dairy cattle was discussed in detail. Dr. Defrain presented a locomotion scorecard that ranged from 1 to 5, with 1 representing a dairy cow with healthy feet and walking gate and 5 representing a dairy cow that is severely lame. He spent time teaching the audience how to identify a dairy cow that was moderately lame and was classified as a 3 on the locomotion scorecard. He encouraged dairy farmers to separate out these moderately lame cows and have them examined and trimmed by a hoof trimmer. The idea behind identifying and treating lame cows earlier is to prevent severe lameness and help the cow's health improve prior to major milk production losses and possible culling. *Continued on pg 3*

Triticale Silage Protein and Fiber Analysis

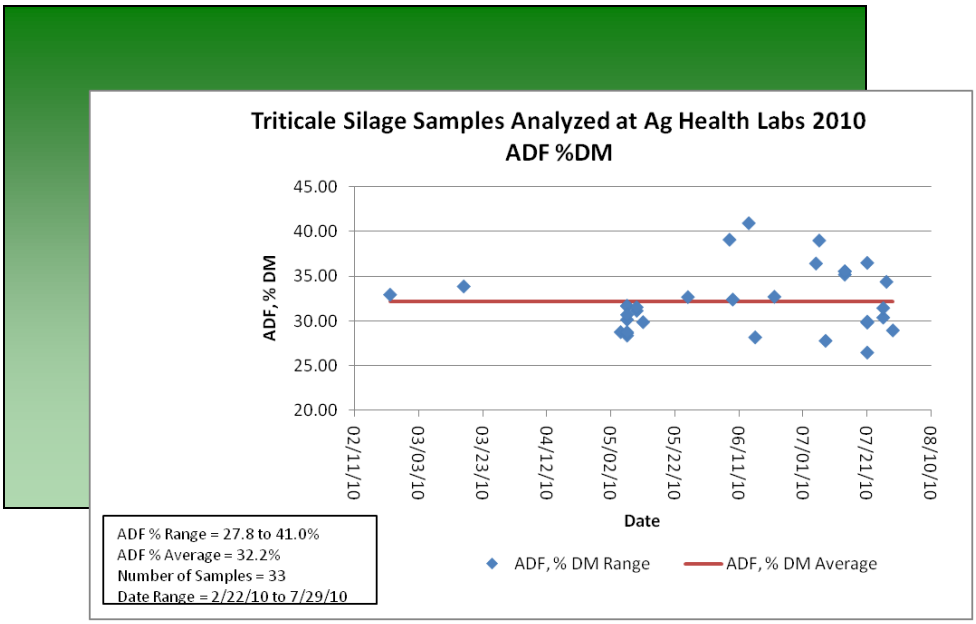
The following graphs represent the range in crude protein (CP) and fiber (ADF and NDF) values for triticale silage samples that were analyzed at Ag Health Labs this year. As you can see, there was quite a large range in values across samples. The line in each graph represents the average of all samples. The average CP value was 17.5%, average ADF was 32.2%, and average NDF was 51.0%.



The variation is primarily effected by growing conditions and maturity at harvest. Once triticale begins to form seed heads, its protein values drop dramatically each day, as fiber values increase. Keep these changes in mind as you're getting ready to harvest next year.

Also note that cereal crops like triticale will accumulate nitrates very readily, especially when irrigated with manure water. If the protein in triticale exceeds 18-20 percent you should consider

Contacts:
Lynn VanWieringen, PhD
Crystal Maiden, BS
Fred J. Muller, DVM



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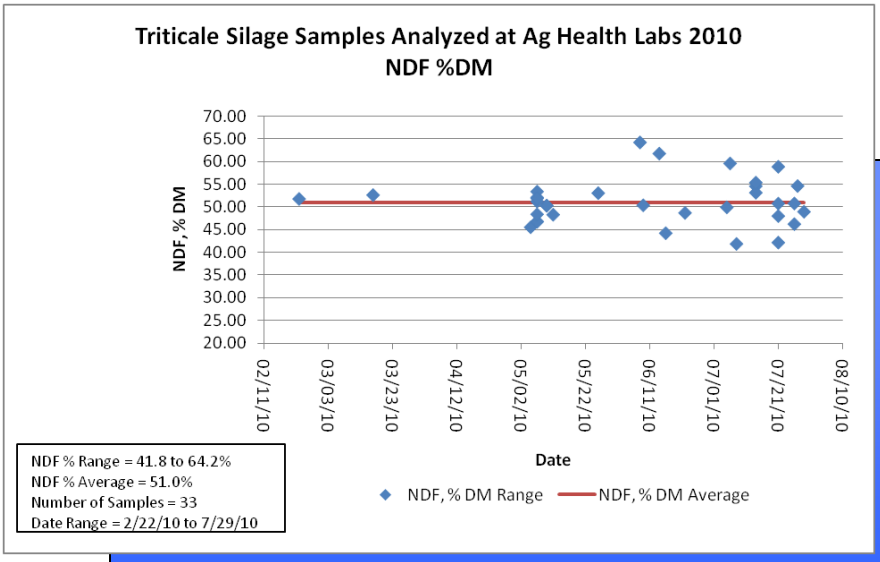
testing it for nitrates before feeding it at high levels. Feeding high nitrates can lead to reduced feed efficiency as well as abortions and death.

Fred J Muller , DVM
Lynn VanWieringen, PhD



Feed Lab Update - Fall Harvest is about to Begin

Fall is right around the corner. It is about time for corn silage and high moisture corn harvest to begin as well as finishing up alfalfa harvest. The feed lab is excited and ready to meet your needs! We offer dry matter (DM), crude protein (CP), fiber (ADF and NDF), ash, starch, lignin, and mineral (Ca, P, K, Mg, Na, Fe, Cu, Mn, and Zn) wet chemistry analysis at Ag Health Labs. If you are looking for additional tests, such as invitro or in situ NDF digestibility measurements or other analyses (such as nitrates, fat or NIR analysis), we are working with Cumberland Valley Analytical Services (CVAS). We will send your sample to CVAS for any additional tests that you request for the cost of the additional analysis plus shipping.

Our goal is to meet your individual needs by being a local feed lab where you can drop your samples off at your convenience. Ag Health Labs is located at 445 Barnard Blvd in Sunnyside, WA. We have a ***drop box outside our front door*** now, so you can leave samples whenever you are coming through town. We also have a ***drop box in Pasco at Irrigation Specialists at the 4th St. Exit***. Please call the lab at 509-836-2020 to let us know if you are leaving a sample at the Pasco location. We are providing 24 hour turn-around time on DM and Feed Panel analysis (DM, CP, ADF, NDF, and ash) if it is at Ag Health Labs by 11 am. If we need to recheck a value it will take an extra day to report the values. However, we will let you know when we are rechecking a value. Starch, lignin, and minerals will take an additional day to report due to the nature of the procedures. Any analyses that we need to outsource to CVAS labs takes approximately a week to get results. We will send these samples out the same day we receive them at our lab.

We look forward to meeting your feed analysis needs! Please stop by or call (509-836-2020) if you have any questions or want to see what goes on in the feed lab. Our door is open and we are always looking for ways to improve our customer service. Have a great fall harvest!

Foot Health Seminar Continued …

Identifying claw lesions and keeping records of the prevalence of the types of lesions that are occurring in your herd was strongly recommended. This helps producers implement treatment plans that are targeted towards the lesions that are most common in their herd. Zinpro Corporation has put together a dairy claw lesion identification chart that is available upon request. The chart lists non-infectious and infectious lesions that show a picture and give a description of the condition.

Preventative maintenance was highly encouraged during the presentation, and one of the ways to incorporate this into the dairy's protocol is to do maintenance trims on cattle. Here are some of the highlights of evaluating the quality of a 'maintenance hoof trim':

1.) The 3-inch measure: On the front of the claw, the length from where the hard horn starts to the tip of the toe should never be shorter than 3-inches in length.
2.) The sole thickness at the tip of the toe should never be less than 0.25 inches.
3.) Preserve the white line on the inside portion of the claw.
4.) Make sure that there is a 50/50 weight distribution between the inside and outside claw on each foot as possible.
5.) Place a trimming knife across both toes and it should be flat.
6.) Lay trimming knife across both heels. There should be no space between the knife handle and heels.

Other key items discussed included the effects of heat stress on foot health, the effects of nutrition and feed supplements on foot health, and the use of foot bathes and guidelines for proper management of foot bathes. If you would like to learn more about any of the information presented by Dr. Jeff Defrain please contact your local Zinpro representative Dr. George Dawson at 509-528-7800.

Lynn VanWieringen, PhD